



**Role Description**

**Waterways Engagement Volunteer**

**Voluntary – reasonable travel and lunch expenses paid (receipts required)**

**Location – events at a variety of London Boroughs and waterways**

**You will be required to attend:**

* An introductory training session – 1 evening for approx. 2 hours
* A minimum of 6 events per year
* Team meetings as required – approximately 3 per year

**Responsible to –**

Billy Coburn, Thames21 Development Officer,

Thames21, Walbrook Wharf, 78-83 Upper Thames Street, London EC4R 3TD

Thames21 is an environmental charity putting healthy rivers at the heart of community life. Through environmental improvements, education, research and advocacy efforts we inspire and influence effective and lasting change by working hand-in-hand with communities to deliver tangible and measurable improvements for urban rivers. This small, dynamic charity is creating a number of opportunities for volunteers to join the team.

**Why we want you:**

We love local waterways, and we know others do too! We want to talk to local people through other local people to create a real buzz around rivers. To do this, we are building a team of enthusiastic and committed individuals who will attend local community events to talk with members of the public and raise awareness of and champion the benefits of healthy waterways across London. If you think your local waterway is just great, and want to share that passion with others, we want to hear from you.

**What you will do:**

* Undertake training with the Thames21 team to build your confidence and give you the tools and knowledge to complete the role effectively.
* Represent Thames21 positively and encourage people to take part in our activities.
* Support Thames21 staff by welcoming and registering volunteers at Thames21 events.
* Communicate the value of Thames21’s projects to the general public.
* Encourage people to take action to improve river water quality in a friendly and positive way.
* Make environmental information easy to understand by tailoring it to the audience and communicating it in a lively and interactive manner.
* Where applicable, utilise games, activities and discussions to relay information.
* Use Thames21’s forms and methods to record numbers of individuals engaged.
* Work with the development team to create new activities which convey messages effectively.
* Be willing to continue updating your environmental knowledge and be informed about the latest key issues.

**What’s in it for you?**

* Attending local events is fun! You’ll experience carnivals, community events, family days and local activities.
* A better understanding of your area of London and its diverse communities. We endeavour to place volunteers at events close to where they live.
* Gain valuable skills and experience, especially those related to community engagement in the environmental and voluntary sector.
* Put learning into practice in a safe and supported environment, with a great team of people.
* Explore London’s lesser known waterways and help others to connect with them.
* Be part of a successful and dynamic environmental charity.
* Make a real difference to the health of London’s waterways.



**Person Specification**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Knowledge, skills and competencies:** | **Desirable** | **Essential** |
| Good organisational skills |  | ✓ |
| Punctual and reliable |  | ✓ |
| Excellent interpersonal skills; confident manner with staff, volunteers |  | ✓ |
| and trainees at events, training sessions and in the office |  |  |
| Creativity and a passion for engaging people with environmental issues |  | ✓ |
| Knowledge of environmental issues, particularly those to do with | ✓ |  |
| waterway management in urban areas |  |  |
| Knowledge of local waterways and river catchments | ✓ |  |
| Ability to absorb information quickly |  | ✓ |
| Confident and clear communication skills |  | ✓ |
| Knowledge and experience of engaging communities and volunteers | ✓ |  |

**To apply**

If you are interested in applying for this voluntary role, please contact Billy Coburn (billy.coburn@thames21.org.uk) with your CV and short covering letter (no more than 3 paragraphs) detailing how you meet the person specification by **9am on Monday 13th February 2017.**

If successful, we will get in contact with you soon after the deadline to invite you to the informal induction evening at **6pm on Monday 20th February**.